

STATINTL

Pilot Powers

In Russia last week, according to Pravda, the public was "wrathfully branding with shame" the name of Francis Gary Powers, the American spy pilot. The Soviet press reported a flood of protests from Moscow and Stalingrad, Odessa and Kiev, Minsk and Tbilisi, Novosibirsk and Vladivostok.

But of Powers himself, there was almost no news. Since his capture, the relatively few Russian articles published about him personally have pictured him as a worthless mercenary who left home early in search of easy money, never wrote his parents and did not even know their address. "His ugly and cowardly bosses could not give Powers a single drop of faith in the correctness of his work," said one article. Another said he had first-class equipment but lacked any sense of worthy purpose.

The Russians have not said where Powers is now or what will happen to him—other than that he will be tried "severely." The United States Embassy, which has several times requested an interview with him, has received no reply. Among Westerners in Moscow, the guess is that he will be tried fairly soon—and in public if the general anti-American campaign needs a boost.